

REMARKS

New independent Claim 28 defines the invention as a method for manufacturing a vehicle frame assembly. Initially, a first side rail that extends the entire length of the vehicle frame assembly is provided. The first side rail is hydroformed so as to have an integrally formed mounting structure. A second side rail and a cross member are then provided. The cross member is secured to the side rails. Lastly, a component of the vehicle is connected directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail without the use of brackets or other mounts.

New independent Claim 28 avoids the Horton et al. reference, inasmuch as the engine cradle disclosed therein clearly does not include a side rail that extends the entire length of the vehicle frame assembly. Thus, it is believed that Claim 28 is patentable over the art of record.